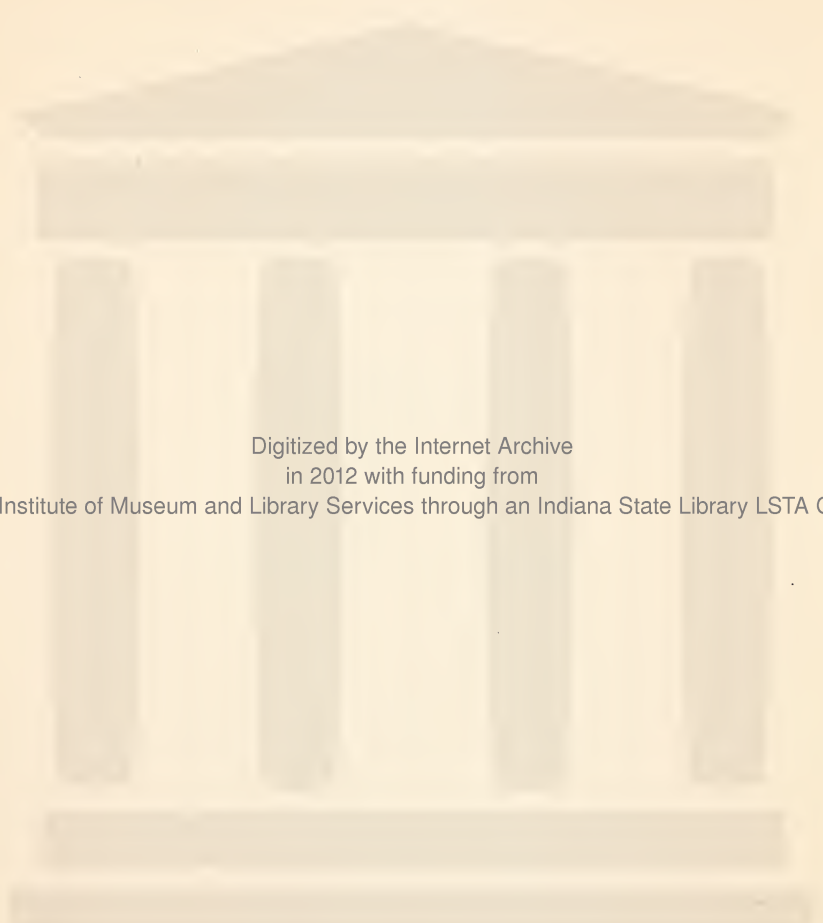


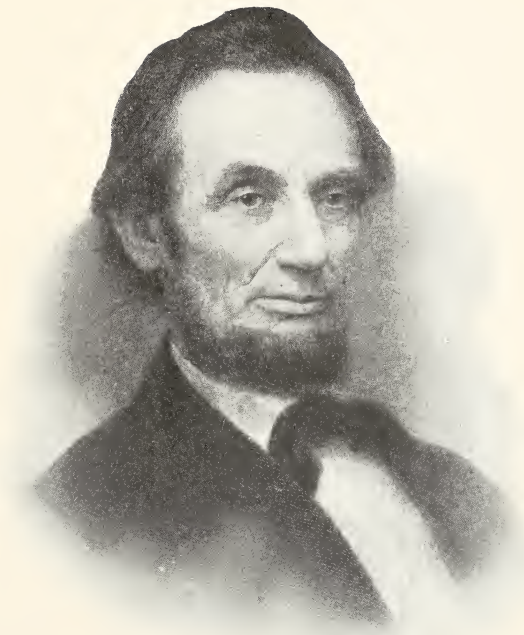
**THE BEGINNINGS
OF THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY
IN ILLINOIS**

WILLIAM A. MEESE



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ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THE BEGINNINGS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN ILLINOIS AND ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

Slavery.

The origin of the republican party marks one of the most important epochs in our national life, and is entitled to a place in history, above the plane of partisan political records.

When the colonies separated from Great Britain, they took with them the institution of slavery, which had always been recognized by the British government, and although most of the framers of our constitution were opposed to slavery, they were unable to eradicate this curse from our country or our laws.

Recognized by our constitution, slavery was protected by the individual states, and congress felt it had no right to interfere. The feeling against this institution was constantly gaining ground in the northern states, and it was recognized at an early day that its existence was a menace to our government and threatened its dissolution.

The slave power controlled congress and dictated our legislation. From time to time laws were enacted favorable to the slave owners, and over one-half of the time of congress was devoted to legislation connected with that institution.

The Missouri Compromise.

When the people residing in the territory of Missouri, in February, 1819, asked to be admitted as a state, Representative James Tallmadge jr. of New York moved to insert a clause in the proposed constitution of the state of Missouri, providing:

"That the further introduction of slavery, or involuntary servitude, be prohibited, except for the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; and that all children born in said state after the admission thereof in the union, shall be free at the age of twenty-five years."

This amendment created great excitement both in congress and throughout the country. The bill as amended by Mr. Tallmadge passed the house, but was defeated in the senate.

Upon the reconvening of congress in December, Senator Jesse B. Thomas of Illinois offered an amendment, which struck out the clause prohibiting slavery and in place thereof inserted the following:

"And be it further enacted, that in all the territory ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, not included within the limits of the state contemplated by this act, slavery and involuntary servitude otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall be and is hereby forever prohibited: Provided always, that any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any state or territory of the United States, such fugitives may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service aforesaid."

Thomas Jefferson, then living in retirement at Monticello, wrote a letter in opposition to the bill as amended by Senator Thomas and said that the mere suggestion of such a line sounded to him "like a firebell at night, and that its consummation might sound the death knell of the union."

The house at first refused to accept the senate amendment, and a committee of conference was appointed by both houses. After weeks of heated and bitter debate the bill as amended by Senator Thomas of Illinois was adopted. Both of the Illinois senators, Jesse B. Thomas and Ninian Edwards, as well as Illinois' sole member of the house, Daniel P. Cook, voted for the bill. The bill was passed in both the senate and house on the same day, March 2, 1820, the vote being: Senate, 27 ayes, 15 noes; house, 134 ayes, 42 noes.

Thomas Jefferson after the passage of the Missouri compromise in a letter to a friend said:

"I had laid down a law to myself never to write, talk or even think of politics, to know nothing of public affairs, and therefore had ceased to read newspapers, yet the Missouri question aroused and filled me with alarm. I have been among the most sanguine in believing that our union would be of long duration. I now doubt it much. My only comfort and confidence is that I shall not live to see this; and I envy not the present generation the glory of throwing away the fruits of their fathers' sacrifice of life and fortune, and of rendering desperate the experiment which was to decide ultimately whether man was capable of self-government."

The Wilmot Proviso.

For some years slavery did not assume a national character. In 1846 congress was deliberating over the purchase of Texas from Mexico. A measure was before the house to grant the president \$2,000,000 with which to prosecute the negotiations. Congressman David Wilmot of Pennsylvania offered an amendment which provided that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime

whereof the party shall first be duly convicted." This amendment passed the house by a majority of six. The only congressmen voting against it were from Illinois. They were Stephen A. Douglas, Orlando B. Ficklin, John P. Hoge and John A. McClernand, while Edward D. Baker, Robert Smith and John Wentworth voted for it. In 1847 Stephen A. Douglas, who had been elected to the senate to succeed James Semple, moved a substitute for the "Wilmot provision," which was lost. Although the bill never passed the senate the principle involved continued to be an important factor in party politics and it finally triumphed through the act of June 19, 1862, forbidding slavery in "any of the territories of the United States now existing, or which may at any time hereafter be acquired."

The Admission of California.

In 1849 California applied for admission to the union. Her people had perfected a constitution which prohibited slavery. Sectional controversy was again renewed. Henry Clay in the senate offered certain resolutions as a compromise, one of which was to allow California to enter the union "without the adoption of any restriction or condition on the subject of slavery." The bill as originally introduced passed both houses, and California became a state with a constitution excluding slavery.

Ten of the senators who voted against the admission of California formulated a protest which they asked "that it be spread upon the record." As showing the sentiment of the south, the last clause is worthy of reproducing:

"But, lastly, we dissent from this bill, and solemnly protest against its passage, because, in sanctioning measures so contrary to former precedent, to obvious policy, to the spirit and intent of the constitution of the United States, for the purpose of excluding the slave-holding states from the territory thus to be erected into a state, this government in effect declares, that the exclusion of slavery from the territory of the United States is an object so high and important as to justify a disregard not only of all the principles of sound policy, but also of the constitution itself. Against this conclusion we must now and forever protest, as it is destructive of the safety and liberties of those whose rights have been committed to our care, fatal to the peace and equality of the states which we represent, and must lead, if persisted in, to the dissolution of that confederacy, in which the slave-holding states have never sought more than equality, and in which they will not be content to remain with less."

At the time of the admission of California there was also passed the odious Fugitive slave law, which act aroused great indignation in the north. Yet when President Fillmore signed the Clay compromise the people believed that for a time the struggle was over, and for a couple of years the slavery question was allowed to remain dormant in our national government.

The Kansas-Nebraska Agitation.

In December, 1852, Mr. William Hall of Missouri introduced in the house of representatives a bill to organize the territory of Platte. This was the country now contained in Kansas and Nebraska. In February, 1853, the committee on territories reported a bill organizing the territory of Nebraska. On January 16th, 1854, Senator Archibald Dixon of Kentucky gave notice that whenever the Nebraska bill should be called up he would move the following amendment:

"That so much of the eighth section of an act approved March 6, 1820, entitled 'an act to authorize the people of the Missouri territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the union on an equal footing with the original states, and to prohibit slavery in certain territories,' and declares that 'in all the territory ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty-six degrees, thirty minutes north latitude, slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall be forever prohibited,' shall not be so construed as to apply to the territory contemplated by this act, or to any other territory of the United States; but that the citizens of the several states or territories shall be at liberty to take and hold their slaves within any of the territories or states to be formed therefrom, as if the said act, entitled as aforesaid, had never been passed."

The Douglas Bill.

On the 23d of January, 1854, Stephen A. Douglas, senator from Illinois, as chairman of the senate committee on territories reported a bill which divided the Platte country into two territories, the southern one to be known as Kansas and the northern one as Nebraska. Regarding slavery it provided:

"That, in order to avoid misconstruction, it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of this act, so far as the question of slavery is concerned, to carry into practical operation the following propositions and principles, established by the compromise measure of one thousand eight hundred and fifty, to-wit:

"First: That all questions pertaining to slavery in the territories, and in the new states to be formed therefrom, are to be left to the decision of the people residing therein, through their appropriate representatives.

"Second. That all cases involving title to slaves and questions of personal freedom are referred to the adjudication of the local tribunals with right to appeal to the supreme court of the United States.

"Third: That the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States, in respect to fugitives from service, are to be carried into faithful execution in all the organized territories, the same as in the states."

The Douglas bill passed both houses and was approved by President Pierce, May 31, 1854. The Kansas-Nebraska bill thus repealed the Missouri

compromise, and it is significant that both measures were introduced and championed by Illinois senators. When it became known that the Douglas bill had become a law, it caused the greatest excitement in the north. Never before had there been such a feeling of unrest. Anti-slavery democrats, anti-slavery whigs, as well as abolitionists now seemed to have one common cause.

Douglas Tries to Explain.

So great was the feeling against the bill that in September, 1854, when Senator Douglas returned to his home in Chicago, he announced that he would address the people at North Market hall in vindication of his course in introducing and securing the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

At the appointed hour thousands of people filled the streets in the vicinity of the hall, and for four hours Senator Douglas strove to speak to the people, but the people would not have it. Douglas could not make himself heard, and he was at last forced to retire.

Forced Emigration.

The abolition party had not been idle. Even before the passage of the bill, they had formed emigration societies and were sending settlers into Kansas in the hope of making Kansas a free state. The pro-slavery men soon realized what was taking place, and in order to counteract the emigration from the north, caused hundreds of Missourians to go into Kansas. Soon the eastern, or free state men as they were known, received notices to leave the territory and never return. Upon refusal to go their homes and farm buildings were burned and many were murdered in cold blood. Illinois had sent many of her free-state men to Kansas, and when the news of their murder, destruction of property and driving out of the territory became known, it caused intense excitement in this state. The pro-slavery men of Kansas then attempted to force Kansas into the union with a constitution recognizing slavery. President James Buchanan, it is claimed, lent his aid in their fraudulent attempt, and had it not been for Senator Stephen A. Douglas, the pro-slavery men would have triumphed. Senator Douglas, through this last masterly opposition to the adoption of a pro-slavery constitution for Kansas again gained popular favor and became the idol of the masses.

The Dred Scott Decision.

At this time there was pending in the courts a case which exerted a great influence over the minds of the people and did much to arouse northern sentiment.

Dred Scott was a negro slave owned by Dr. John Emerson, a surgeon in the United States army, and in the year 1834 Scott came with the doctor from Missouri to Fort Armstrong on Rock Island, Illinois, where the doctor was stationed. Scott remained at Fort Armstrong until May, 1836, when he went with the doctor to Fort Snelling (now Minnesota), where he married Harriet,

a slave of his master, and had two children. Slavery was illegal in both places, in Illinois by our constitution; in Minnesota (Upper Louisiana purchase) by the Missouri compromise.

In 1838 Scott was taken to Jefferson barracks, a military post at St. Louis, Missouri, and here an action was brought in the circuit court of the state by Scott to test the question of his freedom. The St. Louis court held that Scott's residence on free soil had made him free. The case was appealed to the supreme court of Missouri which court reversed the decision of the St. Louis circuit court and held Scott was a slave. In the meantime Dr. Emerson had sold Dred and his family to John F. A. Sanford of New York and suit was brought against Sanford in the United States court for Scott's freedom.

This case was tried at St. Louis on May 15th, 1854, before the court and a jury, and the latter found that "Dred Scott was a negro slave, the lawful property of the defendant." A new trial was refused, and Scott carried his case to the supreme court of the United States.

The final decision in the Dred Scott case was the longest and, up to that period, the most interesting one ever given by the supreme court of the United States. It is reported in the 19th Howard. The substance of the decision was:

"Scott was not made free by being taken to Rock Island in the state of Illinois. As Scott was a slave when taken into the state of Illinois by his owner, and was there held as such, and brought back into Missouri in that character, his status, as free or slave, depended on the laws of Missouri, and not of Illinois. He and his family were not free, but were, by the laws of Missouri, the property of the defendant."

This decision, while not the final and celebrated one rendered by Chief Justice Taney, only helped to fan the flames, and the Free-Soil, Native Americans and Anti-Slavery democrats of the north now took more aggressive steps toward the abolition of the slave trade.

Sentiment Crystallizes.

The anti-slavery movement had grown to such magnitude and the sentiment against slavery and its extension had become so universal, that during the fall of 1854 there was a general feeling among all classes, and in all parts of the north, that it was time to organize a new political party. Among the leaders of the anti-slavery party were Wendell Phillips, Horace Greeley, Thaddeus Stephens, Henry Wilson, Owen Lovejoy and hundreds of other equally patriotic men.

First Anti-Slavery Meeting.

The first anti-slavery meeting or convention in this state that assumed proportions larger than a county meeting was held in Springfield, October 4th and 5th, 1854, at the time the state fair was in progress. Delegates were

present from some twelve or more counties. A conservative set of resolutions was adopted. The meeting nominated a candidate for state treasurer, the only nomination it made, but he was not elected. Nor was the ticket named. A state central committee was named, which consisted of Judge David J. Baker of Madison. Maj. U. D. Coy of Knox, N. C. Geer of Lake, Edwin S. Leland of LaSalle, M. L. Dunlap, A. G. Throop, Z. Eastman, J. F. Farnsworth and Ichabod Coddington of Cook, A. Lincoln of Sangamon, H. M. Sheets of Stevenson and J. B. Fairbanks of Morgan. This committee did nothing and the organization lapsed.

A Memorable Gathering.

The first state fair was being held at Springfield during the time the above convention was in session, and the 4th of October had been advertised as a day when Senator Douglas and others would speak. Rumor was current that both Judges Breese and Trumbull would be there to answer Douglas. There was a large attendance from all over the state. Senator Douglas arrived but Breese and Trumbull failed to appear. Abraham Lincoln, who was present, consented to discuss the questions of the day with Mr. Douglas. This was the first measuring of strength of the two master minds, who had such a large part in shaping the future destinies of this country. The debate was held in the hall of representatives. Mr. Lincoln opened the discussion in a speech of two hours.

"He (Whig) claimed to be national in his views; was opposed to disturbing slavery where it existed in the states; would sustain efficient slave law, because of the clear grant of power in the constitution for the recovery of fugitives from labor; believed that congress had the power, and should exercise it, to prohibit slavery in the territories, citing the ordinance of 1787. He also took the broad ground derived from the Declaration of Independence, that the white man had no right to impose laws upon the blacks for their government without their consent; and concluded with a vigorous attack upon Douglas personally, taking as his text the celebrated apostrophe of that gentleman in 1849, that the Missouri compromise was canonized in the hearts of the American people, which no ruthless hand would dare to be reckless enough to disturb. He spoke with singular power, and being deeply moved himself, carried his audience with him step by step in wrapt attention, by his eloquence, until his argument broke like a sun over their understanding. Mr. Lincoln's speech was heartily endorsed by the convention.

Mr. Douglas, in answer, showed that the principle of legislation in the adjustment measures of 1850, supported by patriot whigs and democrats alike as a finality, was precisely the same as that embodied in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and that the insertion of the words declaring the Missouri line inoperative and void by a southern whig, was mere surplusage, and did not change the legal effect at all; that aside from these words the act was the same in its grant of legislative powers as that of Utah and New Mexico,

which had met the approbation of all parties except ultra abolitionists. The argument of his adversary, his friends claimed, was met, point by point, repelling his assaults and exposing his sophistry in a scathing and triumphant manner, as only the "Little Giant," with his ready powers of debate, of all men in America could have done, carrying conviction home to the minds of his hearers until their pent up enthusiasm, knowing no bounds, burst forth in ringing applause from a thousand throats."

The Name Republican.

Who first suggested the name Republican for the anti-Kansas-Nebraska partisans is not definitely known, but on March 29th, 1854, Major Alvin E. Boyay of Ripon, Wisconsin, wrote to the New York Tribune, urging Horace Greeley to recommend this name for the new party that it was proposed to form. The first state convention to adopt the name republican was that of Michigan at Jackson on July 6th, 1854. Wisconsin followed July 13th, and Vermont adopted the name the same day.

The First Call.

There seems to have been a general understanding for a united effort to organize a national anti-slavery party, for we hear of gatherings being called at or about the same time in various states. In this state credit is due to a newspaper man.

Some time before the holidays in December, 1855, Paul Selby, then editor of "The Morgan (now Jacksonville) Journal," formerly a Whig paper, but then an independent, published an article in which he called for a meeting of the anti-Nebraska editors of Illinois for the purpose of agreeing upon a campaign for the following year. The following is the article published:

"All editors in Illinois opposed to the Nebraska bill are requested to meet in convention at Decatur, Illinois, on the 22d of February next, for the purpose of making arrangement for the organization of the Anti-Nebraska forces in this state for the coming contest. All editors favoring the movement will please forward a copy of their papers containing their approval to the office of The Illinois State Chronicle, Decatur."

This call was published in and endorsed by the following newspapers:

The Morgan Journal, Jacksonville,	The Journal (German), Freeport.
The Chronicle, Winchester.	The Beacon, Freeport.
The Illinois State Chronicle, Decatur.	The Pantagraph, Bloomington.
The Quincy Whig, Quincy.	The True Democrat, Joliet.
The Gazette, Lacon.	The Telegraph, Lockport.
The Pike County Free Press, Pittsfield.	The Gazette, Kankakee.
The Tribune, Chicago.	The Guardian, Aurora.
The Staats Zeitung, Chicago.	The Telegraph, Dixon.
The Republican, Oquawka.	The Gazette, Waukegan.
The Republican, Peoria.	The Chronicle, Peru.
The Prairie State, Danville.	The Advocate, Belleville.
The Advertiser, Rock Island.	The Journal, Chicago.
The Fultonian, Fulton, Vermont county.	The Journal, Sparta.

Rock Island County's Stand.

The Rock Island Weekly Advertiser of January 10th, 1856, under the heading "State Editorial Convention," printed the following:

"A number of people in the state are urging the propriety of holding a Free-State Editorial convention on the 22d of February next, at some favorable point at which all editors in the state 'not bound to swear in the words Douglas and slavery,' are expected to be present.

"We vote yea on that motion. Such a convention, even if it did not result in a complete organization of the forces called together, would at least get them to understand their relative positions, and enable them to act as far as possible in concert with each other to effect the great end they mutually wish to accomplish."

In its issue of January 22d, 1856, under the heading, "National Republican Informal Convention," the Rock Island Advertiser prints the following call:

TO THE REPUBLICANS OF THE UNITED STATES.

"In accordance with what appears to be the general desire of the republican party, and at the suggestion of a large portion of the republican press, the undersigned chairmen of the state republican committees of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin, hereby invite the republicans of the Union to meet in informal convention at Pittsburg on the 22d of February, 1856, for the purpose of perfecting the national organization and providing for a national delegate convention of the republican party at some subsequent day, to nominate candidates for the presidency and vice presidency, to be supported at the election in November, 1856."

Moline Abolitionists.

Moline was the home of abolition in this part of the state. Most of her citizens were from the New England and eastern states and brought with them a strong conviction against human slavery. Several fugitive slaves in their flight from the south to Canada here found shelter, protection and safe guidance on their road to liberty. Moline was known as one of the "stations" of the underground railway, that chain of abolitionists' homes that stretched from the borders of the slave south to the Canadian north where were men who believed it their sacred duty not only to secrete, feed and clothe the runaway slave, but also to defend him in his flight toward freedom.

Chief among these abolitionists was the Rev. A. B. Hitchcock, better known as Parson Hitchcock. The parson was not only a strong abolitionist, but was also an able and eloquent expounder of the gospel, who preached abolition doctrines almost every Sunday from his Congregational pulpit and who also talked abolition on week days. Among others were: Joseph Jack-

man, John Deere, Hiram Pitts, Elias S. Gilbert, H. F. Sickles, Abraham Hartzell, Nathan C. Tyrrell, Alonzo Nourse, Wm. H. Edwards and many others. There were also strong anti-slavery men and women in other parts of the county, but they were scattered. In Moline the predominating sentiment was anti-slavery.

A Moline Meeting.

On Monday, February 11, 1856, there was held at Nourse's hall in Moline a Kansas meeting. Abraham Hartzell was called to the chair, and Wm. A. Nourse was appointed secretary. H. Pitts, Rev. A. B. Hitchcock and H. F. Sickles were appointed vice presidents of the meeting. J. M. Brackett of Rock Island presented and read the message of Governor Chase of Ohio. Warm and eloquent speeches were made by Joseph Jackman, E. S. Gilbert, H. F. Sickles, George W. Bell, Rev. L. C. Carr, Rev. A. B. Hitchcock, H. Pitts, Elder Isaac Newell and C. R. Blanchard.

That the reader may gain an idea of the strong sentiment in Moline against slavery, I present the resolutions which were drafted and unanimously adopted at the Nourse hall meeting:

Moline Resolutions.

1st. Resolved, That the issue now pending respecting Kansas involves the perpetuity of our free institutions.

2d. Resolved, That no man therefore can be indifferent to the results of that struggle, without being recreant to the best interests of his country.

3d. Resolved, therefore, That those presses and persons who did and do defend the course of Atchison and his Missouri hordes are enemies to the principles upon which the republic was founded.

4th. Resolved, That we recognize the policy of the present administration as intensely pro-slavery and disposed to give all its aid to the Missourians and their attempt to subjugate the Free-State men of Kansas, and consequently we regard the present administration as worthy of the deepest detestation.

5th. Resolved, That we sanction and encourage the actions of our liberty-loving friends now inhabiting the territory of Kansas, who are ready and willing to assert and maintain the rights and dignities of free men, and of using every just and proper means to establish a system of government within their borders which shall give to each citizen those inalienable rights upon which the whole structure of free government and a free people is predicated.

6th. Resolved, That we will assist the Free-State men of Kansas with "material aid" with a hearty good will.

In proof of which a subscription paper was drawn up and the following sums subscribed:

Pitts, Gilbert & Pitts	\$100
Joseph W. Brackett	25
H. F. Sickles	25
John Deere	25
Alonzo Nourse	25
N. C. Tyrrell	25
Abraham Hartzell	25
Rev. Isaac D. Newell	10
Wm. D. Mason	10
R. N. Tate	10
Philander Osborn	10
Moline Workman Office	10
Calvin Hitchcock	5
B. P. Ferris	5
Daniel Gordon	5
Wm. H. Edwards	5
Wm. E. Griffin	5
E. P. Wharton	5
E. P. Walker	5
A. Williams	5
M. Walker	5

Joseph Jackman, one Sharpe rifle.

George W. Bell, one good double barrel shotgun for volunteer.

Charles Dailey volunteers to go to use the Sharpe rifle.

James McRea volunteers also.

Messrs. Tyrrell, Gordon and Whitmore were appointed to solicit subscriptions.

This meeting adjourned to meet again in two weeks, at which time the fourth, fifth and sixth resolutions adopted at the preceding meeting were readopted. Russel Stevens contributed \$25 and W. F. Wood and S. H. White each \$10, while H. F. Sickles gave one Sharpe rifle.

George W. Bell, who gave one of the Sharpe rifles as above mentioned, shortly after this meeting went to Kansas carrying with him his weapon, and located at Lawrence, which was a town founded by the Massachusetts Emigration Aid society. When Quantrell and his Missouri ruffians attacked and sacked Lawrence, George W. Bell was one of the the one hundred and twenty-five citizens killed in the defense of Lawrence. Those who knew Mr. Bell say he was a strong anti-slavery man and was one of the leading spirits among the Moline abolitionists.

Editors Meet.

The editorial convention met at Decatur February 22, 1856. A severe snowstorm which fell the night before had blockaded many of the railroads. Mr. Paul Selby in his account of this meeting said:

"The early arrivals included Dr. Charles H. Ray of the Tribune and George Schneider of the Staats Zeitung, Chicago; V. Y. Ralston of the

Quincy Whig; O. P. Wharton of the Rock Island Advertiser; T. J. Pickett of the Peoria Republican; E. C. Daugherty of the Register, and E. W. Blaisdell of the Republican, Rockford; Charles Faxon of the Princeton Post; A. N. Ford of the Lacon Gazette; B. F. Shaw of the Dixon Telegraph; W. J. Usrey of the Decatur Chronicle, and Paul Selby of the Morgan Journal."

An organization was effected with Paul Selby as chairman and Mr. Usrey as secretary, while, according to its official report, Messrs. Ray, Schneider, Ralston, Wharton, Daugherty and Pickett were appointed a committee on resolutions, and Messrs. Faxon, Ford and Shaw on credentials.

The most important work of the convention was done through its committee on resolutions. Abraham Lincoln was present and was in conference with this committee, and it is claimed he dictated the policy of the convention.

The platform, while disavowing any intention to interfere in the internal affairs of any state in reference to slavery, protested against the introduction of slavery into territory already free, or its further extension; demanded the restoration of the Missouri compromise; insisted upon the maintenance of the doctrine of the Declaration of Independence as essential to freedom of speech and of the press, and, "it recognizes freedom as the rule, and slavery as the exception, made and provided for as such, and that it nowhere sanctions the idea of property in man as one of its principles;" declared in favor of the widest toleration in matters of religion and for the protection of the common school system, which was a protest against 'Know-Nothingism, which had swept over the country during the preceding two years, and concluded with a demand for "reform in the administration of the state government" as second only in importance to slavery extension itself. O. P. Wharton of the Rock Island Advertiser was one of the nine men who drafted the resolutions.

A state central committee consisting of the following gentlemen was appointed:

First District—S. M. Church, Rockford.

Second District—W. B. Ogden, Chicago.

Third District—C. D. A. Parks, Joliet.

Fourth District—T. J. Pickett, Peoria.

Fifth District—Edward A. Dudley, Quincy.

Sixth District—W. H. Herndon, Springfield.

Seventh District—R. J. Oglesby, Decatur.

Eighth District—Joseph Gillespie, Edwardsville.

Ninth District—D. L. Phillips, Jonesboro.

For the State at Large—Gustavus Koerner, Belleville, and Ira O. Wilkison, Rock Island.

The convention then adopted the following:

"Resolved, That this convention recommend a state delegate convention to be held on Thursday, the 29th day of May next, in the city of Bloom-

ton, and that the state central committee be requested to fix the ratio of representation for that convention, and take such steps as may seem desirable to bring about a full representation from the whole state."

Lincoln Declines.

In the issue of Tuesday morning, February 26, 1856, the Rock Island Advertiser gave nearly a two-column report of the proceedings of the Anti-Nebraska Editorial convention. In this report it says:

"Abraham Lincoln of Springfield was present and addressed the convention at the request of the editors, in which address he avowed his determination of not allowing his name to be used during the coming political canvass as a candidate for any office. He declared his preference for Col. Wm. H. Bissel for governor and expressed his conviction that he could be elected and was the man for the times."

The Pittsburg Meeting.

On the same day that the Illinois editors were in session, there was a similar convention held by the Anti-Nebraska editors of the state of Pennsylvania at Pittsburg, called "for the purpose of perfecting the national organization and providing for a national delegate convention of the republican party to nominate candidates for the presidency and vice presidency."

The proceedings of the Pittsburg convention are of special interest from the fact that Illinois men were present. Mr. Giddings introduced to the Pittsburg gathering the Rev. Mr. Lovejoy of Illinois. He said: "The places of the most of those patriots who were about to be shot down in Kansas, would be supplied by other free men. He was willing to go as a captain or private. He would rather be there weltering in blood than to see a set of drunken ruffians take the government out of the hands of the people of Kansas."

Mr. Charding of Illinois also addressed the convention, and J. S. McMillan of this state acted as one of the vice presidents, while Judge Edwin S. Leland of Ottawa was made one of the national committeemen. This convention issued a call for a national convention to be held in Philadelphia on June 17th to nominate candidates for the presidency and vice presidency.

The following call was issued by the state central committee of Illinois:

Anti-Nebraska State Convention.

A state convention of the Anti-Nebraska party in Illinois will be held in the city of Bloomington on Thursday, the 29th day of May, 1856, for the purpose of choosing candidates for state officers, appointing delegates to the national convention, transacting such other business as may properly come before the body. The committee has adopted as the basis of representation the ratio of one delegate to every 6000 inhabitants, and an addi-

tional delegate for every fractional number of 2000 and over; but counties that contain less than 6000 inhabitants are entitled to one delegate." The call was signed by:

Wm B. Ogden.

F. A. Dudley

R. J. Oglesby

Ira O. Wilkinson

Joe Gillespie

S. M. Church

Thos. J. Pickett

G. D. A. Parks.

W. H. Herndon

D. L. Phillips

Ira O. Wilkinson, one of the committee at large, was for many years a judge of our circuit court and leader of the Rock Island county bar. Rock Island county was entitled to three delegates. The following call was published in the Rock Island Advertiser and Moline Workman:

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

"The state central committee having called the state convention of the republican party to a meeting at Bloomington on the 29th day of May next, the republicans of Rock Island county are required to meet at the court house in Rock Island on Saturday, the 10th day of May, next, to choose delegates to attend the state convention. It is desired that all parts of the county will be fully represented. John W. Spencer, Joseph Jackman, John V. Cook, county committee. Rock Island, April 9, 1856."

For a National Convention.

In the same paper is a call "to the people of the United States without regard to past political differences or divisions, but who are opposed to the repeal of the Missouri compromise, to the policy of the present administration to the extension of slavery into the territory, in favor of the admission of Kansas as a free state, and restoring the use of the federal government to the times of Washington and Jefferson; are invited by the national committee appointed by the Pittsburgh convention, on the 22d day of February, 1856, to send from each state three delegates from every congressional district, and six delegates at large to meet in Philadelphia on the 17th day of June, next, for the purpose of recommending candidates to be supported for the offices of president and vice president."

Twenty-two states, including the District of Columbia, signed the call through committeemen. E. S. Leland appears for Illinois.

A Forecast.

An article in the Chicago Tribune in May of that year shows the sentiment prevalent at that time and it further indicates that those favorable to the formation of this new party were decided on a leader in this state.

"THE BLOOMINGTON CONVENTION—Only two weeks will intervene between the present time and the day fixed for holding the anti-Nebraska state convention at Bloomington. But, though the time is short, we wish to correct one apprehension that has gone abroad in relation to the proposed

gathering. It is this: That the convention is to be exclusively republican. Such is not the case. The republicans, so far as we are informed, consent to be represented there purely as anti-Nebraska men, and if there is anything in their political creed which points to more radical measures than old-line whigs and anti-Nebraska democrats can consent to, they have expressed their willingness, without dissent, to put such things in abeyance, and unite upon the platform upon which all northern men, who are not avowedly pro-slavery, ought to stand. As one of the organs of the republican opinion, we have no hesitation in saying that we advise our friends throughout the state to such a course of action. We say further, that we know of no man who is identified with the republican party who desires or would accept a nomination from the convention, for any place whatever. The republicans of the north wish to testify their sincerity by taking the places of privates in the ranks, reserving the right to do battle wherever the fight is fiercest. They expect that the nominee for governor will possibly be a man, who differs with them upon some matters connected with national politics, but they do not demand uniformity of belief—do not expect it. We know not who may be on the ticket with Colonel Bissel, and we do not care what they are called, or what may be their political antecedents, so that they are men of personal and political integrity, who may be depended upon to carry out the views that they will announce. The republicans ask nothing."

County Convention.

On Saturday, May 10, at 2 o'clock the first republican county convention of Rock Island county was held at the Rock Island county court house. John G. Powars was chairman and O. P. Wharton, editor of the Advertiser, was secretary.

A. F. Perkins of Moline, George W. Pleasants and John W. Spencer of Rock Island were appointed a committee to select three delegates to attend the convention at Bloomington. This committee presented the names of N. C. Tyrrell of Moline, R. H. Andrews of Rock Island and J. V. Cook of Camden, who were elected by the convention.

The State Convention.

The issue of the Advertiser of Tuesday, June 3, 1856, gives a lengthy report, covering three columns, of the Bloomington convention. As delegates from Rock Island county it reports as present N. C. Tyrrell, R. H. Andrews and J. V. Cook, while Ira O. Wilkinson is mentioned as one of the state central committeemen at large.

The Advertiser in speaking of the meeting says: "It was by far the largest political convention that has convened for the nomination of state officers within the borders of Illinois. Political tricksters had no hand or part in its doings, and from its patriotic resolves, we are assured that the sovereign people have made known their will."

The Resolutions.

The following were the resolutions which were unanimously adopted at the state convention:

Whereas, The present administration has prostituted its powers and devoted all its energies to the propagation of slavery, and to its expansion into territories heretofore dedicated to freedom, against the known wishes of the people of such territories, to the suppression of freedom of speech, and of the press; and to the revival of the odious doctrine of constructive treason, which has always been the resort of tyrants, and their most powerful engine of injustice and oppression; and,

Whereas, We are convinced that an effort is making to subvert the principles, and ultimately to change the form of our government, and which it becomes all patriots who love their country and the cause of human freedom to resist; therefore,

Resolved, That foregoing all former differences of opinion upon other questions, we pledge ourselves to unite in opposition to the present administration, and to the party which upholds and supports it, and to use all honorable and constitutional means to wrest the government from the unworthy hands which now control it, and bring it back in its administration to the principles and practices of Washington, Jefferson and their great and good compatriots of the revolution;

Resolved, That we hold, in accordance with the opinion and practices of all the great statesmen of all parties, for the first sixty years of the administration of the government, that, under the constitution, congress possesses full power to prohibit slavery in the territories; and that whilst we will maintain all constitutional rights of the south, we also hold that justice, humanity, the principles of freedom as expressed in our Declaration of Independence, and our national constitution and the purity and perpetuity of our government, require that power should be exerted to prevent the extension of slavery into territories heretofore free:

"Resolved, That the repeal of the Missouri compromise was unwise, unjust and injurious, an open and aggravated violation of the plighted faith of the states, and that the attempt of the present administration to force slavery into Kansas against the known wishes of the legal voters of that territory, is an arbitrary and tyrannous violation of the rights of the people to govern themselves, and that we will strive by all constitutional means, to secure to Kansas and Nebraska the legal guarantee against slavery of which they were deprived at the cost of the violation of the plighted faith of the nation.

"Resolved, That we are devoted to the Union, and will to the last extremity defend it against the efforts now being made by the disunionists of the administration to compass its dissolution, and that we will support the constitution of the United States in all its provisions; regarding it as the sacred bond of our Union and the only safeguard for the preservation of the rights of ourselves and posterity.

"Resolved, That we are in favor of the immediate admission of Kansas as a member of this confederacy, under the constitution adopted by the people of said territory.

"Resolved, That the spirit of our institutions, as well as the constitution of our country guarantee the liberty of conscience as well as political freedom, and that we will proscribe no one, by legislation or otherwise, on account of religious opinions, or in consequence of place of birth.

"Resolved, That in Lyman Trumbull, our distinguished senator, the people of Illinois have an able and consistent exponent of their principles, and that his course in the senate meets with our unqualified approbation."

Although this convention was not called republican, the name not appearing in the proceedings, yet it was well understood that republican was to be the name of the new party and this convention would select delegates to attend the national republican convention at Philadelphia. On motion of John Wentworth of Cook the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the delegates in attendance from the several congressional districts be requested to suggest the name of one person from each congressional district for presidential elector, and three persons for delegates to the national convention to be held at Philadelphia on the 17th proximo, and that a committee of nine, consisting of one from each congressional district, be appointed by the chair to recommend two such electors and six such delegates for the state at large."

Jerome J. Beardsley of Rock Island was elected as the presidential elector from this (then Second) district, and T. J. Pickett, then of Peoria, was selected as a delegate to the national republican convention at Philadelphia.

The Lost Speech.

It was at this convention that Abraham Lincoln made his famous speech, no copy of which was ever published, and which has gone down in history as "The Lost Speech." The editor of the Democratic Press of Chicago in an editorial in his paper on May 31, 1856, said:

"Abraham Lincoln of Springfield was next called out, and made the speech of the occasion. Never has it been our fortune to listen to a more eloquent and masterly presentation of a subject. I shall not mar any of its fine proportions or brilliant passages by attempting even a synopsis of it. Mr. Lincoln must write it out and let it go before all the people. For an hour and a half he held the assemblage spellbound by the power of his argument, the intense irony of his invective, and the deep earnestness and fervid brilliancy of his eloquence. When he concluded, the audience sprang to their feet and cheer after cheer told how deeply their hearts had been touched, and their souls warmed up to a generous enthusiasm."

The Delegates.

The following is a list of the counties represented and the names of the delegates present at the convention:

- Adams—A. Williams, W. B. Powers, E. A. Dudley, Jno. Tillson, A. G. Person, George W. Burns, James T. Furness and O. H. Browning.
- Bond—J. F. Alexander.
- Boone—Luther W. Lawrence and Ralph Roberts.
- Bureau—Charles C. Kelsey, George Radcliff and Geo. W. Stipp jr.
- Calhoun—F. W. Kersting.
- Carroll—D. H. Wheeler.
- Cass—B. R. Frohook.
- Champaign—J. W. Jaquith, Elisha Harkness.
- Christian—W. G. Crosswaithe.
- Coles—T. A. Marshall, A. Compton, William Glasgow, George C. Harding.
- Cook—G. Goodrich, F. C. Sherman, Wm. A. James, A. H. Dolton, James McKie, Geo. Schneider, John Wentworth, C. H. Ray, J. L. Scripps, C. L. Wilson, Samuel Hoard, A. Aikin, H. H. Yates, I. N. Arnold, N. B. Judd, J. W. Waughop, Mark Skinner.
- DeKalb—Wm. Patton, Wm. J. Hunt, James H. Beveridge.
- DeWitt—S. F. Lewis, J. F. Lemon.
- DuPage—W. B. Blanchard, S. P. Sedwick, J. W. Smith.
- Edgar—L. Munsell, R. B. Southerland.
- Edwards—Wm. Pickering.
- Fulton—W. P. Kellogg, Robert Carter, S. N. Breed, T. N. Hassan, H. O. Phelps.
- Greene—Daniel Bowman, Joshua W. Armstrong.
- Grundy—Robert Longworth, William T. Hopkins.
- Hancock—John Rise, S. W. King, S. Worley, A. Simpson.
- Henderson—W. D. Henderson.
- Henry—J. H. Howe, J. M. Allen.
- Iroquois—W. P. Pearson, J. B. Joiner, I. Bennett.
- Jersey—Thomas Cummings, M. Corey.
- Jo Daviess—Adolph Meyer, T. B. Lewis, H. S. Townsend, T. Spraggins.
- Knox—T. J. Hale, D. H. Frisbie, Jesse Perdue, C. J. Sellon.
- Kankakee—A. W. Mack, Daniel Parker.
- Kendall—J. M. Crothers, J. B. Lowry.
- Kane—I. A. W. Buck, S. C. Morey, G. W. Waite, A. Adams, W. R. Baker.
- Lake—E. P. Perry, N. C. Geer, Wm. B. Dodge.
- LaSalle—D. L. Hough, J. A. McMillan, David Strawn, Burton C. Cook, Elmer Baldwin, C. H. Gilman.
- Lee—E. M. Ingals, J. V. Eustace.
- Livingston—J. H. Dart, David McWilliams.
- Logan—J. L. Dugger, S. C. Parks.
- McDonough—L. H. Waters, J. E. Wyne.

McHenry—S. P. Hegale, Anthony Woodspur, C. W. Craig, Wesley Diggins, Dr. Abularr, A. C. Joslyn.

McLean—James Gilmore sr., Dr. Harrison Noble, Wm. W. Orme, delegates; A. T. Briscoe, Green B. Larrison, David Cheney, alternates.

Macon—W. J. Usrey, I. C. Pugh.

Macoupin—J. M. Palmer, John Logan, Samuel Brown, Thomas B. Lofton, P. B. Solomon, J. D. Marshall, James Wolfe.

Madison—F. S. Rutherford, H. King, George Smith, M. G. Atwood, H. S. Baker, George T. Brown, John Tribble, Gershon Flagg.

Marion—D. K. Green, T. W. Jones, S. W. Cunningham.

Marshall—Robert Boal, J. C. Tozier.

Mason—H. O'Neal, R. P. Gatton.

Menard—M. T. Morris, George Collier.

Mercer—John W. Miles, L. W. Meyers.

Montgomery—Wickliff Kitchell, J. W. Cassady, J. T. Eccles.

Morgan—R. Yates, J. W. King, M. H. Cassell, J. B. Duncan, J. J. Cassell, R. McKee, M. J. Pond, A. P. Wood, I. L. Morrison, James Green, William L. Sargeant, J. W. Strong, James Langley, E. Lusk, B. F. Stevenson, J. N. D. Stout, A. Bulkley, B. F. Ford, J. Metcalf, J. Graham.

Moultrie—John A. Freeland.

Ogle—Charles C. Royce, F. A. McNeil, G. W. Southwick.

Peoria—J. D. Arnold, B. L. T. Bourland, R. Scholst, George T. Harding, T. J. Pickett.

Piatt—P. K. Hall.

Pike—John G. Nicolay, Wm. Ross, M. Ross, J. Grimshay, T. Worthington, W. E. Elder, J. Hall, M. J. Noyes, D. H. Gilmer, O. M. Hatch.

Putnam—B. C. Lundy.

Randolph—Thomas McClurken, Casper Horn, J. C. Holbrook, F. B. Anderson, B. J. F. Hanna.

Rock Island—N. C. Tyrrell, R. H. Andrews, John V. Cook, Ira O. Wilkinson.

St. Clair—Dr. Charles Vincenz, J. B. Hoppe, Francis Wenzell, N. Miles, F. A. Carpenter.

Sangamon—A. Lincoln, Wm. H. Herndon, J. C. Conkling, J. B. Weber, Preston Breckenridge, Wm. Jayne, R. H. Ballinger, Pascal P. Enos, Wm. H. Bailhache, E. L. Baker, Peter Earnest.

Schuyler—John Clark, N. G. Wilcox.

Scott—N. M. Knapp, John Moses, James B. Young, M. James.

Stark—T. J. Henderson.

Stephenson—M. P. Sweet, John H. Davis, George Nolbrecht, H. N. Hibbard.

Tazewell—D. Cheever, D. Kyes, H. Clark, George W. Shaw, John M. Busch.

Union—D. L. Phillips.

Vermillion—Joseph Peters, Martin Bourchall, A. T. Harrison.

Warren—A. C. Harding, E. A. Paine.

Washington—J. Miller, D. Kennedy.

Whiteside—William Manahan, William Protrow.

Will—G. D. A. Parks, W. Wright, J. T. Daggett, Wm. B. Hewitt, H. T. Logan, A. McIntosh, S. Anderson, J. O. Norton, Ichabod Coddings, P. Stewart.
Winnebago—F. Burnass, W. Lyman, S. M. Church, T. D. Robertson.
Woodford—C. D. Banta, R. T. Cassell.
Total number of delegates—251.

The Ticket.

William H. Bissell of St. Clair county was nominated for governor; Francis A. Hoffman of DuPage for lieutenant governor, but subsequently the name of John Wood of Adams was substituted; O. M. Hatch of Pike, for secretary of state; Jesse K. Dubois of Lawrence, for auditor; William H. Powell of Peoria for superintendent of public instruction, and James Miller for state treasurer.

Abraham Lincoln, O. H. Browning, Richard Yates, John M. Palmer, Owen Lovejoy, Lyman Trumbull, John Wentworth and Ira O. Wilkinson were among the strong men who shaped the policy of this new party.

The Rock Island Delegates.

Rock Island county's three delegates were ardent abolitionists. John V. Cook was afterward county clerk. R. H. Andrews was an attorney living in Rock Island and died the following August. Nathan C. Tyrrell lived in Moline and was best known as Deacon and Squire Tyrrell. He was a strong abolitionist and was one of the main agents in the operation of the "underground railway" in this locality. The deacon was comparatively a poor man, and while he gave twenty-five dollars toward assisting the Free-Soil people of Kansas, he could scarce afford it. In those days to get to Bloomington from Moline one had either to go by stage via Peoria, or by rail to LaSalle and then on the Illinois Central to Bloomington. The deacon was bound to attend the convention, and not having the money, started out on foot and walked the entire distance. On the return trip, he walked from Bloomington to Peoria, and from there he worked his passage on a boat to LaSalle, from where he paid his fare to Moline. Deacon Tyrrell was a man of strong principles. He attended the Bloomington convention because he believed it was his duty, and his course stands out in strong contrast to many of the delegates of today.

Rock Island Meetings.

On Thursday, June 12, there was held in the court house yard in Rock Island, an immense republican gathering of the people of this county. Gen. James H. Lane of Kansas and Joseph Knox, attorney of Rock Island, addressed the meeting. Hon. Ira O. Wilkinson was president of the gathering. George Mixter and John Deere of Moline were vice presidents, Major J. M. Allen and O. P. Wharton were secretaries.



WILLIAM H. BISSELL
First Republican Governor of Illinois

Mr. Knox had until this meeting been a democrat, and he addressed his audience for nearly two hours. The Advertiser in speaking of his speech said:

"His desertion of the Douglas fortunes in this state is the severest blow that they have yet received. He is a warm personal friend of the 'Little Giant.' But his love for his country like that of Brutus compelled the sacrifice and we honor him for the noble manner in which he did and now maintains himself."

Mass meetings were held in all parts of the county, which were addressed by Joseph Knox, Ira O. Wikinson, J. J. Beardsley, George Mixter, George W. Pleasants, Robert V. Smith and others.

On March 21 there was held another large republican anti-Nebraska meeting at the courthouse in Rock Island. John W. Spencer was president, Capt. T. J. Robinson and S. S. Guyer vice presidents, and O. P. Wharton secretary. J. J. Beardsley was the first speaker and the press reports say: "He responded in a speech of probably an hour in length of great power—logical, historical, truthful, eloquent—convincing."

"George W. Pleasants upon call of the audience followed Mr. Beardsley in a speech of about one hour and a half, embodying one of the most eloquent and searching appeals to the common sense and patriotism of the people to which we have ever had the pleasure of listening."

The Germans.

The German-American citizens of this county like their brothers all over the country were abolitionists, and this was a source of considerable annoyance to the democrats. As an example, I quote from the Rock Island Argus of April 15th, 1856:

Extremes Meet.

"It is a singular fact that the German adherents to the nigger worshipers are mostly anti-Christians and devoted followers of King Gambrinus; and the Americans (Know-Nothings) are mostly Puritans and Maine lawites. Yet both join hand in hand, under the misapplied name of 'republican' to beat the democracy, the only national party and true friends of liberty. Les extremes se touchent."

Result of the Election.

James Buchanan was the democratic candidate for president in 1856. Millard Fillmore was the native American, and on June 17th at Philadelphia the anti-slavery democrats and whigs of the north met and organized the national republican party, and nominated John C. Fremont for president. While Buchanan carried the state by a plurality of 9164 over Fremont, the entire republican state ticket of Illinois was elected, Bissel receiving a majority of 4697 over W. A. Richardson, the democratic candidate.

Rock Island county in 1850 had only 6937 people and in 1856 our population was 16,217. The county gave Fremont 1308 votes; Buchanan 955; Fillmore 251. For governor Bissell received 1359; Richardson 958; Morris 230. For congress J. F. Farnsworth received 1302 votes, a majority of 340 over J. Van Nortwick. Thomas J. Henderson was elected to the state senate, receiving 1304 votes. J. B. Hawley was elected state's attorney.

The Camden (now Milan) precinct poll books were thrown out by the judges on account of informalities, the judges not being sworn. This precinct gave a majority of from 28 to 55 democratic.

O. P. Wharton, the editor of the Rock Island Advertiser, was an Ohio man, coming to Rock Island in September, 1853, when he purchased a half interest in this paper. He continued in its publication until the spring of 1858 when the paper suspended. Mr. Wharton then left Rock Island. Mr. Wharton was a pronounced anti-slavery man and did much to strengthen the cause. In 1900 he was editor of the Journal and Local of Sandusky, Ohio.

From August, 1854, to February, 1857, Amos Smith published in Moline The Moline Workman. Mr. Smith was a native of New Jersey, and was one of Parson Hitchcock's most ardent admirers. His paper fairly bristled with abolition arguments, and he had much to do with forming the anti-slavery sentiment in Moline. One of his contemporary editors in this county, in speaking of his paper in 1870, said: "The Workman in its political tone was decidedly Anti-Slavery."

T. J. Pickett, who was editor of the Peoria Republican, one of the newspapers to sign the call in February, 1856, was born in Kentucky and became in February, 1859, a citizen of the city of Rock Island where he started the Rock Island Register. He was in 1860 elected state senator from this county. His term extended through the 22d and 23d general assemblies, and in 1861 he was government agent at the island of Rock Island. In 1862 Mr. Pickett enlisted in the civil war and was afterward elected lieutenant colonel of the 69th Illinois infantry, and afterward promoted to the colonelcy of the 132d Illinois infantry. After the war he came to Rock Island and in 1866 was government agent on the island. In 1866 he returned to Paducah, Kentucky.

Lincoln's Address.

On December 17th, 1856, the republicans of Illinois celebrated their victory with a banquet in Chicago. Among the speakers was Abraham Lincoln. The concluding portion of his address is worthy of wider dissemination. Mr. Lincoln said:

"All of us who did not vote for Mr. Buchanan, taken together, are a majority of 400,000. But in the late contest we were divided between Fremont and Fillmore. Can we not come together for the future? Let everyone who really believes, and is resolved, that free society is not, and shall not be, a failure, and who conscientiously declares that in the past contest he has done

only what he thought best—let every such an one have charity to believe that every one can say as much. Thus let by-gones be by-gones. Let past differences as nothing be, and with steady eye on the real issue, let us re-inaugurate the good old 'central ideas' of the republic. We can do it. The human heart is with us—God is with us. We shall again be able, not to declare that 'all states, as states, are equal,' nor yet that 'all citizens, as citizens, are equal,' but to renew the broader, better declaration, including both these and much more, that 'all men are created equal.'"

Anniversary.

The republican party dates its birth from the republican national convention held at Philadelphia on June 17th, 1856. Yet the republican party in Illinois was born May 29th, 1856, at Bloomington, and as well said by Mr. Benjamin F. Shaw: "No human agency in all the tide of times has accomplished more in modifying 'Man's inhumanity to man, which makes countless thousands mourn,' than the republican party. Its efforts have been in a spirit of pure patriotism and the universal brotherhood of man."

